12th March 1954]

Grievances of road maistris.

* 104 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state what is the result of the considerations of the Government on the representations received from the road maistries under Highways and District Boards to give them certain benefits with reference to his reply to question No. 354, dated 6th April 1953?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The attention of the Member is invited to question No. 240 put by him on the subject and answered on the floor of the House on 24th December 1953. The question is still under examination."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" The answer given by the Hon. Minister then was that this matter was still under consideration of Government. Even now the Hon. Minister says that the matter is still under the consideration of Government. May I know how long will the Government be considering the matter, how long will they take to finalise this matter and why they have allowed so many months to elapse before taking any final decision in the matter?"

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" This has been deferred after partition. That was the substance of the reply I gave. We have to take into consideration the report. The report was received from the Chief Engineer (Highways) in January and we have asked for certain information by way of clarification about certain grades he has suggested, about their jurisdiction and so on. Our communication has been sent on 15th of February. His reply is awaited. As soon as his reply is received, we will be taking necessary action."

Iron and magnesite ores in Salem district.

* 105 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the steps taken by the Government for the mining and extraction of iron, and magnesite ores in Kanjamalai, Kodumalai, Patchai Malai, etc., in Salem district; and

(*b*) whether any experiments were conducted to work out the scheme?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) The Government have not taken any steps for the mining and extraction of iron and magnesite ores in Salem district. However, applications from private persons have been received for the grant of mineral concessions for iron ore in Kanjamalai and Kodumalai Reserved Forests of Salem district and they are under consideration of the Government.

" (*b*) No Sir; as Government have no proposal at present to extract the ores themselves."